

What is claimed is:

1. A method for processing continuous tone image data for imaging on a digital output device, the method comprising the steps of:

5 identifying problematic tone levels in the binary
representation of an image;
 generating predetermined continuous tone levels based on
the identified problematic tone levels; and
 applying data transformation to the corresponding
10 predetermined continuous tone levels to purposefully avoid or correct the
identified problematic tone levels in a binary representation of the image.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein several adjacent levels in the
predetermined continuous tone levels are assigned a same specific tone level
15 that corresponds with a binary representation that avoids undesirable artifacts.

3. A method for processing continuous tone image data for imaging on a digital output device, the method comprising the steps of:

20 identifying advantageous tone levels in the binary
representation of the image;
 generating predetermined continuous tone data levels
based on the identified advantageous tone levels; and
 applying data transformation to the predetermined
continuous tone data levels to purposefully select identified advantageous
25 binary tone levels for enhancing a binary representation of the image data.

4. A method claimed in claim 3 wherein specific binary levels that result in full coverage of an area are applied via data transformation to continuous tone text data to assure full character formation in the binary representation.

000290" 2E426560
09597437.060000

8

5. ~~A method for processing continuous tone image data for imaging on a~~
digital output device, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying at least one problematic tone level in the binary
representation of the image;

5 identifying at least one non-problematic tone level in the
binary representation of the image;

applying data transformation to cause the digital output
device to replace the at least one problematic tone level in the binary
representation of the image with output at the at least one non-problematic
10 tone level in the binary representation of the image.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5 further comprising the steps of:

generating predetermined continuous tone levels based on
the at least one identified problematic tone level; and

15 generating predetermined continuous tone data levels based
on the at least one identified non-problematic tone level.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein several adjacent levels in the
predetermined continuous tone levels based on the at least one identified
20 problematic tone level are assigned a same specific tone level that corresponds
with a binary representation that avoids undesirable artifacts.

8. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein specific binary levels that result in
full coverage of an area are applied via data transformation to continuous tone
25 text data to assure full character formation in the binary representation.

000290" 2E426560

BB
BB

BB
BB